THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c). A Sainik School is opened on the specific request of a State Government/Union Territory Administration as the entire capital expenditure and a major portion of the recurring expenditure has to be met by it. No concrete proposal from any of the State Government/UT Administration is currently under the active consideration of the Ministry of Defence.

[*English*]

Benefits to Foreign Companies due to changes in FERA

700. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the changes in the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 announced by the Reserve Bank of India are more beneficial for foreign companies which will be entering India with an equity holding of 51 per cent under the new Industrial Policy as compared to the existing Indian companies where overseas equity holding is up to 40 per cent; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not offering equal concessions to all to companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Crisis faced by Handloom Weavers of Madhya Pradesh

701. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have conducted any survey about the problems being experienced by handloom weavers of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The major problem experienced by the handloom weavers in the country including Madhya Pradesh is the high yarn prices. Government is constantly reviewing the price situation and has taken corrective steps. The State sector and Co-operative sector spinning mills have been directed to augment the production of crucial counts of yarn and exercise restraint in prices. The spinning mills in the private sector have also been pursuaded to supply yarn to handloom weavers at modertely reduced prices.

Export to Jordan

702. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main items being exported to Jordan;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the Country by exporting those items during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase export to Jordan in the coming years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?